AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A method for the preparation of a branched siloxane comprising the steps of:

a) mixing a compound having the general formula $(SiO_{4/2})(R^aR^b{}_2SiO_{1/2})_4$ with a cyclic polydiorganosiloxane, and/or a substantially linear hydroxy terminated polydiorganosiloxane wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, the R^a substituent in at least part of the compound being selected from alkenyl and alkynyl, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group;

b) causing the mixture to react in the presence of an acid or phosphazene base catalyst at a temperature of up to 180° C; and

c) neutralising the reaction mixture.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5.(withdrawn) A silicone based release modifier composition comprising

A) a branched siloxane consisting of:-

(a) at least one Q unit of the formula$(SiO_{4/2})$ and

(b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b{}_2SiO_{2/2}$

which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and

(c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b{}_2SiO_{1/2}$,

wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group

having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group;and

B) at least one additional component selected from:-

i) an alkenylated silicone resin

ii)an alkenylated polydiorganosiloxane,

iii) one or more primary alkenes containing from 14 to 30 carbon atoms, and

iv) one or more branched alkenes containing at least 14 carbon atoms.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (withdrawn) A silicone based release modifier composition comprising A) a branched siloxane containing at least three aliphatically unsaturated hydrocarbon groups, terminated by units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$ and otherwise consisting of:-

(a) at least one unit of the formula($SiO_{4/2}$); and

(b) at least two polydiorganosiloxane chains of the formula $(R^b_2SiO_{2/2})_n$, where each n is independently from 2 to 100, the total $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ units in the branched siloxane being from 15 to 995 units, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; and

B) at least one additional component selected from:-

i) an alkenylated silicone resin

ii) an alkenylated polydiorganosiloxane, and

iii) one or more primary alkenes containing from 14 to 30 carbon atoms, and

iv) one or more branched alkenes containing at least 14 carbon atoms.

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (withdrawn) A silicone based release modifier composition according to Claim 5 wherein each R^b substituent is an alkyl group selected from methyl and ethyl.

17. (withdrawn) A silicone based release modifier composition according to claim 5 where the branched siloxane contains at least two polydiorganosiloxane chains of the formula $(R^b_2SiO_{2/2})_n$ where each n is independently from 2 to 100.

18. (withdrawn)A silicone based release modifier composition according to claim 17 where the branched siloxane has the general formula

$$\begin{array}{c} O\text{-}(R^b{}_2SiO)_n\text{-}Si\ R^aR^b{}_2 \\ | \\ R^aR^b{}_2Si\text{-}O\text{-}(R^b{}_2SiO)_n\text{-}Si\text{-}O\text{-}(R^b{}_2SiO)_n\text{-}Si\ R^aR^b{}_2 \\ | \\ O\text{-}(R^b{}_2SiO)_n\text{-}Si\ R^aR^b{}_2 \end{array}$$

where each n is independently from 1 to 100.

19. (cancelled)

20. (withdrawn) A release coating composition according to Claim 8 where the branched siloxane has from 20 to 250 siloxane units.

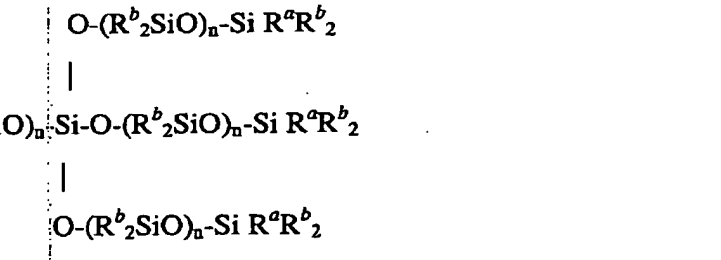
21. (cancelled)

22. (Previously added) A multi-pack release coating composition comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula ($SiO_{4/2}$) and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; and a hydrosilylation inhibitor, a second pack comprising a silicone release modifier and hydrosilylation inhibitor, a third pack comprising a hydrosilylation catalyst in a sufficient amount to catalyse the reaction between the branched siloxane and a cross-linking agent and a fourth pack comprising the organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent in an amount such that the ratio of the total number of Si-H groups in the composition to aliphatically unsaturated hydrocarbon groups in the composition is from 0.9:1 to 3:1.

23. (Currently Amended) A multi-pack release coating composition ~~according to claim 22~~ comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula ($SiO_{4/2}$) and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group;~~the branched siloxane~~ and catalyst, a second pack comprising a~~the~~ silicone release modifier and ~~the~~ catalyst, and a third pack comprising an~~the~~ organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent ~~cross-linking agent~~ and hydrosilylation inhibitor.

24. (cancelled)

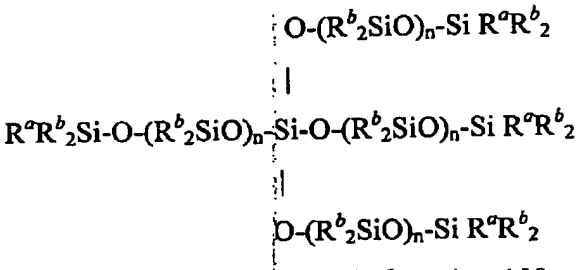
25. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition of claim 22 where the branched siloxane has the general formula



where each n is independently from 1 to 100.

26. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition according to claim 23 where at least 50 percent of the R^a substituents are alkenyl groups.

27. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition of claim 23 where the branched siloxane has the general formula

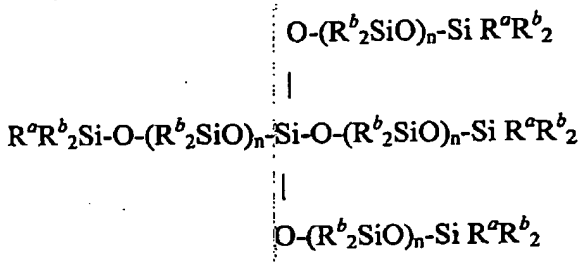


where each n is independently from 1 to 100.

28. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula ($SiO_{4/2}$) and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; and a hydrosilylation inhibitor, a second pack comprising a silicone release modifier and hydrosilylation inhibitor, a third pack comprising a hydrosilylation catalyst, and a fourth pack comprising an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent.

29. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition according to claim 28 where at least 50 percent of the R^a substituents are alkenyl groups.

30. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition of claim 28 where the branched siloxane has the general formula

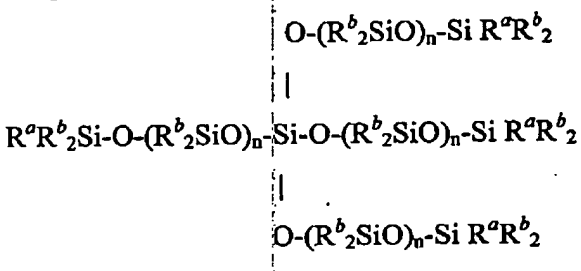


where each n is independently from 1 to 100.

31. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula ($SiO_{4/2}$) and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; a hydrosilylation inhibitor; and a catalyst, a second pack comprising an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent, and a third pack comprising a silicone release modifier; a catalyst; and a hydrosilylation inhibitor.

32. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition according to claim 31 where at least 50 percent of the R^a substituents are alkenyl groups.

33. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition of claim 31 where the branched siloxane has the general formula

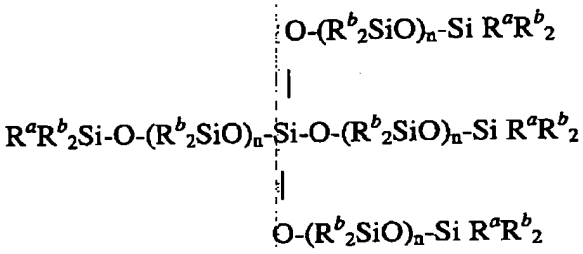


where each n is independently from 1 to 100.

34. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula ($SiO_{4/2}$) and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; a hydrosilylation inhibitor; and an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent, a second pack comprising a catalyst, and a third pack comprising a silicone release modifier; an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent; and a hydrosilylation inhibitor.

35. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition according to claim 34 where at least 50 percent of the R^a substituents are alkenyl groups.

36. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition of claim 34 where the branched siloxane has the general formula

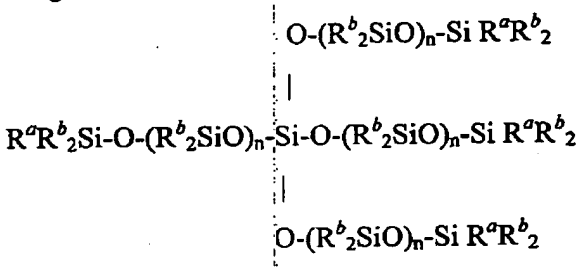


where each n is independently from 1 to 100.

37. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula ($SiO_{4/2}$) and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; a second pack comprising an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent, a third pack comprising a catalyst, a fourth pack comprising a silicone release modifier, and a fifth pack comprising a hydrosilylation inhibitor.

38. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition according to claim 37 where at least 50 percent of the R^a substituents are alkenyl groups.

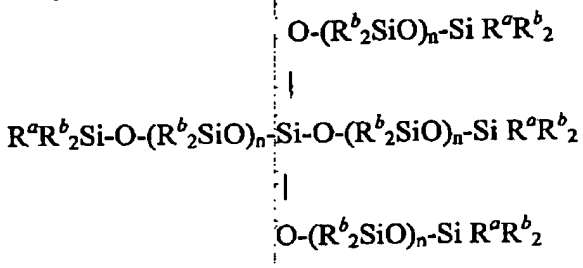
39. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition of claim 37 where the branched siloxane has the general formula



where each n is independently from 1 to 100.

40. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula ($SiO_{4/2}$) and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; a catalyst; a hydrosilylation inhibitor; and an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent, and a second pack comprising a catalyst; a silicone release modifier; an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent; and a hydrosilylation inhibitor.

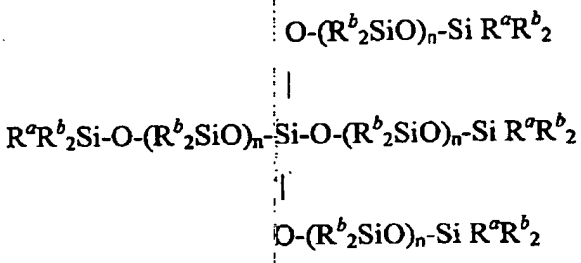
41. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition of claim 40 where the branched siloxane has the general formula



where each n is independently from 1 to 100.

42. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition comprising a first pack comprising a branched siloxane consisting of (a) at least one Q unit of the formula ($SiO_{4/2}$) and (b) from 15 to 995 D units of the formula $R^b_2SiO_{2/2}$ which units (a) and (b) may be inter-linked in any appropriate combination, and (c) M units of the formula $R^aR^b_2SiO_{1/2}$, wherein each R^a substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and an alkynyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, at least three R^a substituents in the branched siloxane being alkenyl or alkynyl units, and each R^b substituent is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl group, an alkoxy group, an acrylate group and a methacrylate group; and a catalyst, a second pack comprising an organohydrogenpolysiloxane cross-linking agent, a third pack comprising a silicone release modifier; and a catalyst, and a fourth pack comprising hydrosilylation inhibitor.

43. (New) A multi-pack release coating composition of claim 42 where the branched siloxane has the general formula



where each n is independently from 1 to 100.